

## Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /142 W

----- 057370

R 141100 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 634

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0361

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI INTERNAL SCENE

SUMMARY: SIAD IN RECENT WEEKS HAS UNDERTAKEN UNUSUALLY HEAVY SCHEDULE OF SPEECHES AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES. INTENSITY OF ACTIVITIES REMINISCENT OF PERIOD FOLLOWING HIS JULY 29, 1972 HALANE SPEECH. HOWEVER CURRENT SPEECHES SOMEWHAT LESS FREIGHTED WITH IDEOLOGICAL BAGGAGE AND MOST ASPECTS OF " PERSONALITY CULT" WHICH CHARACTERIZED EARLIER PERIOD CONSIDERABLY TONED DOWN. SHARP PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS WITHIN SRC WHICH REACHED PEAK AROUND BEGINNING OF YEAR APPEAR TO HAVE SUBSIDED, OR AT LEAST BEEN PAPERED OVER. END SUMMARY

1. SIAD' S RECENT INTENSIVE SCHEDULE OF SPEECH MAKING AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES STRONGLY CONTRASTS WITH HIS PUBLIC INACTIVITY EARLIER IN YEAR FOLLOWING REPORTED SHARP CLASHES WITHIN SRC AND BETWEEN SRC AND SIAD. BETWEEN LATE NOVEMBER 1972 AND MID- FEBRUARY 1973 SIAD APPEARED LARGELY TAKEN UP WITH OVERCOMING CHALLENGES FROM WITHIN SRC. RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC ACTIVITIES SUGGESTS SIAD MORE CONFIDENT OF HIS POSITION. FACT THAT SIAD NOW REGULARLY ATTENDING MASS RALLIES AND LARGE MEETINGS ALSO INDICATES PHYSICAL SECURITY PROBLEM CONSIDERED MANAGEABLE.

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2. EMPHASIS IN RECENT SPEECHES NOTICEABLY LESS IDEOLOGICAL THAN IN PERIOD FOLLOWING HALANE SPEECH WITH NO FURTHER MENTION OF " MARXISM- LENINISM." EVEN REFERENCES TO " SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" RELATIVELY PRO FORMA. ON OTHER HAND, NO INDICATION OF ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN REGIME POLICIES OR PROGRAMS. MAJOR THRUST OF MOST RECENT SPEECHES IS TO URGE STILL FASTER PROGRESS IN ERADICATING SOCIAL EVILS ( TWO- YEAR CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY LAUNCHED MARCH 7) AND ELIMINATING ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL ABUSES ( TRIBALISM, CORRUPTION, ETC.).

3. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS FACT THAT MOST OF " PERSONALITY CULT" TRAPPINGS OF EARLIER PERIOD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY TONED DOWN. ALTHOUGH SIAD NOW DOMINATES THE PRESS BY VIRTUE OF HIS FREQUENT APPEARANCES, LAVISH PERSONAL PRAISE OF SIAD IN EDITORIALS, POSTERS, ETC., HAS DIMINSHED. MOREOVER SIAD HAS BEEN MENTIONING NEED TO DEMOCRATIZE DECISION MAKING AND TOLD ONE AUDIENCE ON MARCH 3 THAT " WE SHOULD NEVER ALLOW ONE MAN TO MONOPOLIZE SHOW." DESPITE CONTINUED RUMORS OF HEALTH PROBLEMS, INCLUDING EXCESSIVE DRINKING, SIAD IN MOST RECENT PUBLIC APPEARANCES HAS APPEARED RELAXED, HEALTHY AND CONFIDENT.

4. MEANWHILE ALL OTHER SRC MEMBERS SEEM TO HAVE RESUMED THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES. BG SAMANTAR PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN RECENT VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION ( MOGADISCIO 0341) AND APPEARS TO HAVE REGAINED MUCH, IF NOT ALL, HIS FORMER POSITION. IN THEIR PUBLIC APPEARANCES TOGETHER SRC MEMBERS GIVE AT LEAST APPEARANCE OF FRIENDLY COLLEGIALLY SO THAT IF ( AS WE SUSPECT) SHARP PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS WITHIN SRC HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED, THEY HAVE AT LEAST BEEN PAPERED OVER.  
LOORAM

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